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Congressman Mark Kirk says White House proposal omits “nearly every major reform” in centrist House bill

WASHINGTON— U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk (R-IL) led a group of 32 centrist House members to build an incremental health care bill in partnership with over five dozen patient, doctor, nurse, hospital, employer and disease advocacy groups. This centrist bill was introduced after eight months work but was blocked from any vote by the House Rules Committee.

Among its provisions, Congressman Kirk’s centrist health care reform legislation would:

- Adopt the Medical Rights Act (H.R. 2516) to prohibit the government from interfering with decisions made by you and your doctor;
- Enact lawsuit reform and expand electronic medical records;
- Grant the right to Americans to buy coverage from any state in the Union, especially if a plan is less expensive or more flexible for your family or small business;
- Provide individuals who buy their own insurance the same tax break employers receive;
- Promote innovative state programs to guarantee access to affordable coverage for individuals with preexisting conditions;
- Cut billions of dollars in waste, fraud and abuse; and
- Not raise taxes, add to the deficit or cut Medicare.

“Today’s White House proposal leaves out nearly every major reform included in our centrist health care legislation,” U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk said. “This proposal is based on a very expensive Senate bill that would not reform lawsuits, does not give the right to Americans to buy insurance across state lines and does not protect patients from the government interfering with decisions made by you and your doctor. In the teeth of the Great Recession, the White House proposal would tax retirement savings, cut Medicare for seniors and add to the deficit.

“I would urge the President to invite key Republican and Democratic leaders to Camp David and start over on this issue.”

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